



NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR BRANSTAD AND LT. GOVERNOR REYNOLDS PROCLAIM THIS WEEK AS HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA

Iowa Council on Homelessness unveils database to track homelessness trends in Iowa

Des Moines – Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds today proclaimed November 12-20, 2011 as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Iowa. Iowa joins with 500 other communities and organizations throughout the country in bringing awareness to the issues. The Iowa Council on Homelessness has published new homelessness data citing a slight decrease in homelessness in 2010 and an increase in overall Iowans served for homelessness prevention.

“I encourage all Iowans to join with the Iowa Council on Homelessness this week in recognizing the many causes of hunger and homelessness, the impact it has on families and to support local organizations in their efforts to make a difference in the lives of Iowa’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Governor Branstad.

“I commend the Iowa Council on Homelessness and the hundreds of local service agencies that respond to the needs of those experiencing hunger and homelessness throughout the state,” said Lt. Governor Reynolds. “We are committed to ensuring that every Iowan has a safe, decent and affordable place to call home.”

The Iowa Council on Homelessness reports that 18,212 homeless Iowans were served by service providers throughout the state in 2010, which is a decline from 18,289 in 2009. There was a significant increase in Iowans served through homelessness prevention programs in 2010, due to increased resources offered through a federal program. Iowa’s homelessness assistance and prevention programs throughout the state assisted an unduplicated total of more than 51,000 Iowans in 2010. State-wide and county-level trends are available at:

www.iowaHomelessness.com

The Iowa Council on Homelessness is a 38-member council made up of representatives of state and local governments, nonprofits, advocates and homeless or formerly homeless individuals that works to identify issues, increase understanding, raise awareness and secure resources that will allow all homeless Iowans to become self-sufficient. The Iowa Council on Homelessness was created in 2003 by Executive Order Number 33, and codified in 2008 by Senate File 2161.

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